



PRESS RELEASE

USAID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR THANKS HEALTH PROJECTS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SIDR AFFECTED

DHAKA, DECEMBER 8 -- Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington, DC Kent Hill visited some noted USAID funded health projects outside Dhaka today. His visits included the Smiling Sun Health Clinic in Tongi, the Social Marketing Company (SMC) oral rehydration salt factory and the Blue Star Pharmacy in Bhaluka. Dr. Hill is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh to review USAID's health programs in the region.

During his visit, Dr. Hill toured the USAID supported SMC oral rehydration salt factory and observed first hand the making of oral rehydration salts that have proved to be the remedy for dehydration due to diarrhea which kills millions of Bangladeshis. While visiting the Smiling Sun Health Clinic, he interacted with the doctors and patients and reviewed the clinic's unique approach to replicating its program around the country. He appreciated the quality and range of services the clinic offers to nearly two million mostly poor Bangladeshis who visit the clinic every month. Dr. Hill also visited the USAID supported SMC Blue Star Pharmacy and learned about the different methods of family planning the SMC provides to its large customer base.

Dr. Hill also acknowledged the organizations for helping the Sidr affected people by setting up medical camps and working around the clock to produce extra numbers of oral rehydration salt sachets.

USAID has been a significant partner in progress in the health sector of Bangladesh since its independence. As part of USAID's effort to improve the overall health condition of the Bangladeshi people, USAID will provide US\$173 million over the next five years to fund programs supporting maternal and child health, family planning, tuberculosis eradication and HIV/AIDS mitigation under the health and population agreement with the government of Bangladesh.

USAID is the principal U.S. Government agency that provides development assistance in more than 100 countries around the world. From 1971 to 2006, USAID has provided over \$5 billion in development assistance, with over half of that amount in food aid. In 2007, USAID provided US\$78 million in development assistance to Bangladesh.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)